

I CLAIM:

1. A method of hiding a message in an information carrier, the steps comprising:
 - a) encrypting a message with the use of a chaotic baker map;
 - b) choosing an information carrier comprising a set of pixels;
 - 5 c) coding the shade or color level of said encrypted message using a set of pixels in said information carrier;
 - d) modifying said shade or color level of each of said pixels of said coded message by one of a plurality of values; and
 - e) transmitting said modified message.
- 10 2. The method of hiding a message in an information carrier in accordance with claim 1, wherein said message comprises text.
3. The method of hiding a message in an information carrier in accordance with claim 1, wherein said message comprises an image.
4. The method of hiding a message in an information carrier in accordance with claim 2, wherein said information carrier comprises a digital image.
- 20 5. The method of hiding a message in an information carrier in accordance with claim 3, wherein said information carrier comprises a digital image.
6. The method of hiding a message in an information carrier in accordance with claim 5, wherein said shade level of said encrypted message comprise numbers representative of shades of gray.
- 25 7. The method of hiding a message in an information carrier in accordance with claim 5, wherein said color level of said encrypted message comprise numbers representative of unique colors.
8. The method of hiding a message in an information carrier in accordance with claim 3, wherein said shade level of said encrypted message comprise numbers representative of shades of gray.
- 30 9. The method of hiding a message in an information carrier in accordance with claim 6, wherein said information carrier image comprises $2N \times 2M$ pixels with 256 gray levels.

10. The method of hiding a message in an information carrier in accordance with claim 7, wherein said information carrier image comprises $2N \times 2M$ pixels with 256 colors.

- 5 11. A method of hiding a message in an information carrier, the steps comprising:
- a) encrypting a message with the use of a scrambling function;
 - b) choosing an information carrier comprising a set of pixels;
 - c) coding the shade or color level of said encrypted message using a set of pixels in said information carrier;
 - d) modifying said shade or color level of each of said pixels of said coded message by one of a plurality of values; and
 - e) transmitting said modified message.
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